STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

COMPLAINT FORM

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2025-065

COMPLAINANT: State Ethics Commission
ADDRESS: 201 Executive Center Drive
Suite 150
Columbia, SC 29210
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (803) 253-4192

RESPONDENT: Perietta K. Hightower
ADDRESS: [redacted]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [redacted]
TITLE: Aiken County Council Member

Section 8-13-1120, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires disclosure of the source, type, and amount of income from a governmental entity and a listing of the private source and type of any income received by the filer or a member of the filer's immediate family during the reporting period. Respondent failed to report personal private income and family member government income on the 2023 Statement of Economic Interests.

Section 8-13-1140, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires the filing of an updated Statement of Economic Interests for the previous calendar year annually thereafter prior to March 30. Records in the State Ethics Commission indicate that the Respondent was required to file the 2024 and 2025 Statement of Economic Interests.

Section 8-13-1308, S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires candidates to file Campaign Disclosures within ten (10) days of receiving or expending an accumulated aggregate of $500.00 or more; fifteen (15) days prior to each election; within ten (10) days of the end of each quarter; and a final report when the campaign account is closed. In addition, certified campaign reports detailing campaign contributions and expenditures must contain the total of contributions accepted, the name and address of each person making a contribution, the total expenditures made by or on behalf of the candidate or committee, and the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure is made from campaign funds. Pursuant to Section 8-13-1362 and Regulation 52-504 (C), the Pre-Election and quarterly report are required even when there have been no contributions or expenditures. Records of the State Ethics Commission indicate that Respondent failed to report the $537.60 filing fee expenditure paid on March 16, 2024 on the Quarter 1 2024 Campaign Disclosure, a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure was due between September 27, 2023 and October 2, 2023 for the October 17, 2023 election, a Quarter 3 2024 and Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure was due between October 16, 2024 and October 21, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 election, and quarterly Campaign Disclosures were due no later than January 10, 2025 and April 10, 2025. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before and ten days before each quarterly Campaign Disclosure deadline.

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Respondent was reminded of the income requirement by letters dated July 20, 2023, November 15, 2023, and April 2, 2025 and was reminded of the filing requirements by a certified letter dated April 2, 2025 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed 2023 Statement of Economic Interests, 2024 Statement of Economic Interests, 2025 Statement of Economic Interests, Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure for the October 17, 2023 election, amended Quarter 1 2024 Campaign Disclosure, Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure for the November 5, 2024 election, Quarter 4 2024 Campaign Disclosure, and Quarter 1 2025 Campaign Disclosure have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1120, Section 8-13-1140, Section 8-13-1308(A), Section 8-13-1308 (B), Section 8-13-1308(D)(1), and Section 8-13-1308 (F), S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended.

If there is a finding of probable cause, the following documents become public record: the complaint, the response (if any) by respondent, and the notice of hearing. If a hearing is to be held, the final order and all exhibits become public record. If no hearing is held following a finding of probable cause, the final disposition of the matter becomes public record.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF Richland
Personally appeared before me Meghan Walker Dayson who, first being duly sworn, says that she has read and knows the contents of the above complaint and that the allegations contained therein, are true and correct to the best of her own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of July, 2025

[redacted]
Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director

[redacted]
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires 01/22/26

SEC-7 (Revised 3/2022)

REPLY TO: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 (803)253-4192
ELECTRONIC COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
Complaint C2025-065	)	
State Ethics Commission Complainant.	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
Perjetta K. Hightower Respondent.	)	

The State Ethics Commission has determined that there is probable cause pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, in the above-captioned complaint. The Commission will convene a formal hearing into the matter in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i) & (j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.) on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

The following allegations will be heard:

COUNT ONE
FAILURE TO FILE A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjetta K. Hightower, candidate for Aiken County Council, failed to timely file a 2023 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report prior to the August 15, 2023 primary election, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

COUNT TWO
FAILURE TO FILE A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjetta K. Hightower, candidate for Aiken County Council, failed to timely file a

2023 Q3/Pre- Election Campaign Disclosure Report prior to the October 17, 2023 special election, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

COUNT THREE
FAILURE TO FILE A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjetta K. Hightower, candidate for Aiken County Council, failed to timely file a 2024 Q3/Pre- Election Campaign Disclosure Report prior to the November 5, 2024 general election, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

COUNT FOUR
FAILURE TO FILE A CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjetta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Quarter 2 2023 Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT FIVE
FAILURE TO FILE A CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjetta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Quarter 1 2024 Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT SIX
FAILURE TO FILE A CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjetta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Quarter 2 2024 Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT SEVEN
FAILURE TO FILE A CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjetta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Quarter 4 2024 Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT EIGHT
FAILURE TO FILE A CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjetta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Quarter 1 2025 Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT NINE
FAILURE TO FILE A CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjetta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Quarter 2 2025 Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT TEN
FAILURE TO FILE A CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjetta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Quarter 3/ Final 2025 Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT ELEVEN
FAILURE TO USE CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjetta K. Hightower, candidate for Aiken County Council, failed to timely deposit the following campaign contributions: Gisle G. Bryant $200.00, dated July 26, 2023; Richard Johnson Jr., $200.00, dated July 11, 2023; Louisiana Sanders $100.00, dated September 26, 2023; Marsha F. Harris $25.00, dated September 27, 2023; and Shannon Mathews $500.00, dated October 23, 2023, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT TWELEVE
FAILURE TO USE CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjetta K. Hightower, candidate for Aiken County Council, failed to make the following campaign expenditures through her campaign account: Election Commission, $64.00,

dated May 16, 2023; Patterson – Yard Signs, $235.00, dated August 1, 2023; Aiken Standard – Advertisements, $1,012.50, dated August 4, 2023; Howell Printing – Flyers, $270.00, dated August 3, 2023; Patterson – Signs, $235.00, dated August 3, 2023; UPH Ward Promotions – Commercial, $425.00, dated August 3, 2023; Howell Printing – Campaign Cards, $172.80, dated August 9, 2023; Aiken County Government – Maps, $69.00, dated August 9, 2023; Howell Printing, $297.00, dated September 18, 2023; Messenger Constant, $2,000.00, dated September 19, 2023; Messenger Constant, $1,865.06, dated September 21, 2023; Point Blank Politica Florida, $550.00, dated September 28, 2023; TCC Trucking & Logistics, $1,000.00, dated October 17, 2023; TCC Trucking & Logistics – Canvassing, $3,000.00, dated October 4, 2023; TCC Trucking & Logistics – Political Calls, $2,500.00, dated October 6, 2023; Aiken Standard – Thank You Advertisement, $675.00, dated November 3, 2023; South Carolina Democratic Party, District 8 – Filing Fee, $537.60, dated March 16, 2024; Howell Printing Company, $151.20, dated August 27, 2024; Pens.com, $820.91, dated October 12, 2024; Evening Post Publishing, $799.00, dated October 14, 2024; Evening Post Publishing, $1,400.00, dated October 15, 2024; Messenger Constant, $3,500.00, dated October 21, 2024; Messenger Constant, $987.04, dated October 23, 2024; Howell Printing, $372.60, dated November 1, 2024; UPH Ward Promotions, $450.00, dated November 1, 2024; Christopher Emanuel, $762.08, dated November 2, 2024; and The Leader, $500.00, dated November 5, 2024, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT THIRTEEN
FAILURE TO FILE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1140, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjeta K. Hightower, Aiken County Councilwoman, failed to file a Statement of Economic Interests on or before March 30, 2024, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

COUNT FOURTEEN
FAILURE TO FILE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1140, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjeta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Statement of Economic Interests on or before March 30, 2025, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

COUNT FIFTEEN
FAILURE TO FILE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1140, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjeta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Statement of Economic Interests on or before March 30, 2026, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

COUNT SIXTEEN
FAILURE TO MAINTAIN RECORDS
SECTION 8-13-1302, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjeta K. Hightower, candidate for Aiken County Council, failed to maintain campaign records related to campaign contributions and expenditures, in violation of Section 8-13-1302.

You have the right to be represented by counsel, the right to call and examine witnesses, the right to introduce exhibits, and the right to cross-examine opposing witnesses. This hearing will be open to the public as required by Section 8-13-320(10)(j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended. The procedures to be followed are set forth in the Administrative Procedures Act, Section 1-23-10, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, the State Ethics Act, Section 8-13-100, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.).

A pre-hearing conference may be scheduled prior to the hearing to allow exchange of witness lists and evidence, marking of exhibits, and disposition of motions or pleadings. In the event you fail to appear, judgment by default will be rendered against you. If there are any

questions concerning the above notice or hearing times, please contact the State Ethics Commission.

[redacted]

Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 16th day,
of July 2026

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on RESPONDENT Perjetta K. Hightower, 1051 Scarborough Pass, Aiken, SC 29801 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 17 day of July 2026, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.

[redacted]

Maquita S. Kessler, Paralegal
State Ethics Commission

Columbia, South Carolina

(803) 253-4192

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STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF RICHLAND IN THE MATTER OF: Complaint 2025-065 State Ethics Commission, Complainant. Perjetta K. Hightower, Respondent.	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION **CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a complaint received on July 9, 2025. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Perjetta K. Hightower (Respondent) was considered by the Commission and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Prior to the call of the case, Respondent agreed to the following:

STATEMENTS OF FACT

1. Respondent's husband served on the Aiken County Council (Council) until he resigned due to health issues on May 23, 2023. As a result of his resignation, a special primary election for his seat occurred on August 15, 2023 and a special general election occurred on October 17, 2023.
2. On June 16, 2023, Respondent submitted her Statement of Intention of Candidacy (SIC) to fill her husband's unexpired term and paid a $280.00 filing fee.
3. On July 3, 2023, Respondent filed a 2023 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) but did not disclose any income therein.
4. On July 5, 2023, Respondent filed an Initial Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) disclosing the $280.00 filing fee.

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5. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election CDR prior to the August 15, 2023 special primary election.
6. Respondent was successful in the August 15, 2023 special primary election.
7. On October 10, 2023, Respondent filed a Quarter 3 2023 CDR disclosing $1,162.58 in on-hand contributions.
8. Respondent was successful in the October 17, 2023 special general election.
9. On January 11, 2024, Respondent filed a Quarter 4 2023 CDR disclosing $1,837.58 in on-hand contributions.
10. On March 16, 2024, Respondent submitted a SIC for a June 11, 2024 primary election and a November 5, 2024 general election for the same seat. Respondent also paid a $537.60 filing fee.
11. Respondent did not file a 2024 SEI on or before March 30, 2024.
12. On April 17, 2024, Respondent filed a Quarter 1 2024 CDR disclosing $2,089.58 in on-hand contributions.
13. On September 10, 2024, Respondent filed a Quarter 2 2024 CDR disclosing $2,041.58 in on-hand contributions.
14. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 5, 2024 general election.[1]
15. Respondent was successful in the November 5, 2024 general election.
16. Respondent did not file any additional CDRs prior to the filing of the Complaint.

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[1] The June 11, 2024 primary election was cancelled because Respondent had no opposition. Therefore, Respondent was not required to file a Pre-Election CDR in conjunction with this election.

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17. On April 2, 2025, Commission staff issued a penalty letter to Respondent by certified mail, imposing a $300.00 late-filing penalty for Respondent's failure to file the 2024 SEI, Quarter 3 2024 CDR, and Pre-Election CDR related to the October 17, 2023 special general election.[2] According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), Respondent received this letter on April 28, 2025.
18. Respondent did not file a 2025 SEI on or before March 30, 2025.
19. On June 10, 2025, Commission staff contacted Respondent by email regarding Respondent's filing deficiencies. Respondent replied stating she had questions about the filing requirements and requested a phone call be held at 10:00 a.m. on June 12, 2025. Commission staff replied that there was no availability for a meeting at that time and offered several other days to Respondent. Respondent did not reply to this email.
20. A complaint was filed with the Commission on July 9, 2025, alleging Respondent failed to file a 2024 SEI, a 2025 SEI, a Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 5, 2024 election, a Quarter 4 2024 CDR, and a Quarter 1 2025 CDR.
21. On July 17, 2025, Commission Investigator Reginald Gaymon contacted Respondent, who confirmed receipt of both the complaint and the April 2, 2025 penalty letter.
22. Investigator Gaymon reviewed Respondent's filings with the Commission, available receipts and invoices, and bank account records from her campaign bank account and two personal bank accounts.

DocuSigned by:
Perjetta K. Hightower

[2] The Commission's certified letter also assessed late-filing penalties for filing the following CDRs late: Quarter 2 2023, Quarter 1 2024, and Quarter 2 2024.

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23. As to Respondent's filings, Investigator Gaymon identified the following reports as not timely filed:

Report	Date Due	Date Filed
2024 SEI	3/30/2024	6/8/2026
Quarter 3 2024 CDR & November 2024 PECD	10/10/2024	6/8/2026
Quarter 4 2024 CDR	1/10/2025	7/27/2025
2025 SEI	3/30/2025	4/10/2026
Quarter 1 2025 CDR	4/10/2025	7/27/2025
Quarter 2 2025 CDR	7/10/2025	7/27/2025

24. A review of Respondent's personal bank account records revealed Respondent made twenty-seven campaign-related expenditures totaling $24,650.79 from personal bank accounts.
25. A review of Respondent's campaign bank account records revealed Respondent failed to timely deposit five contributions into her campaign bank account within ten days of receipt.
26. Investigator Gaymon requested receipts and invoices related to certain campaign expenditures from Respondent on July 17, 2025 and April 6, 2026. Respondent was only able to produce a handful of receipts.
27. Respondent did not file a 2026 SEI on or before March 30, 2026.
28. On June 8, 2026, Respondent worked with Commission staff to bring her filings into compliance.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Statements of Fact, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. At all times relevant, Respondent was a candidate, as defined by Section 8-13-1300(4), and a public official, as defined by Section 8-13-100(27), and the Commission therefore has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
2. As a candidate, Respondent failed to maintain records of campaign expenditures, in violation

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of Section 8-13-1302, which reads, in relevant part:

> A candidate [] must maintain and preserve an account of…the total amount of expenditures made by or on behalf of the candidate []; the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure is made including the date, amount, purpose, and beneficiary of the expenditure [and]; all receipted bills, canceled checks, or other proof of payment for each expenditure.

3. As a candidate, Respondent failed to timely file the following CDRs: Quarter 4 2024, Quarter 1 2025, Quarter 2 2025, and Quarter 3 2025, all in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B), which provides, in relevant part:

> Following the filing of an initial certified campaign report, additional certified campaign reports must be filed within ten days following the end of each calendar quarter in which contributions are received or expenditures are made, whether before or after an election until the campaign account undergoes final disbursement pursuant to the provisions of Section 8-13-1370.

4. As a candidate, Respondent failed to timely file a Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 5, 2024 election, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1), which provides, in relevant part:

> At least fifteen days before an election, a certified campaign report must be filed showing contributions of more than one hundred dollars and expenditures to or by the candidate [] for the period ending twenty days before the election.

5. As a candidate, Respondent failed to use her campaign bank account to pay for twenty-seven campaign expenditures, in violation of Section 8-13-1312, which states that "expenses paid on behalf of a candidate [] must be drawn from the campaign account."

6. As a candidate, Respondent failed to timely deposit five contributions into her campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312, which reads, in relevant part:

> All contributions received by the candidate [] must be deposited in the campaign account by the candidate [] within ten days after receipt.

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7. As a public official, Respondent failed to file an SEI in 2024, 2025, and 2026, in violation of Section 8-13-1140, which reads, in relevant part:

> A person required to file a statement of economic interests under this chapter annually shall file, pursuant to Section 8-13-365, an updated statement for the previous calendar year, no later than noon on March thirtieth of each calendar year.

8. Section 8-13-130 allows the Commission to "levy an enforcement or administrative fee on a person who is in violation of any provision of the Ethics Act."

9. Section 8-13-320(10)(l)(i) allows the Commission to require payment of a civil penalty of up to two thousand dollars for each violation of the Ethics Act.

10. Section 8-13-1510(A) allows the Commission to assess late filing penalties as follows:

> A person required to file a report or statement under this chapter who files a late statement or report or fails to file a required statement or report must be assessed a civil penalty as follows: (1) a fine of one hundred dollars if the statement or report is not filed within five days after the established deadline provided by law in this chapter; and (2) after notice has been given by certified or registered mail that a required statement or report has not been filed, a fine of ten dollars per calendar day for the first ten days after notice has been given, and one hundred dollars for each additional calendar day in which the required statement or report is not filed, not exceeding five thousand dollars.

DISCUSSION

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with one count of Section 8-13-1302, for failing to maintain records related to campaign expenditures; one count of Section 8-13-1312, for failing to make expenditures through her campaign bank account; one count of Section 8-13-1312, for failing to timely deposit contributions into her campaign bank account; four counts of Section 8-13-1308(B), for failing to file CDRs for Quarter 4 2024, Quarter 1 2025, Quarter 2 2025, and Quarter 3 2025; one count of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1), for failing to file a

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Quarter 3/Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 5, 2024 election; and three counts of Section 8-13-1140, for failing to file an SEI in 2024, 2025, and 2026.[3] Through this Consent Order, Respondent acknowledges she violated the Ethics Act in these instances.

In mitigation, Respondent states that her time and efforts were devoted to caring for her husband and managing the responsibilities of Council and her employment as an engineer. Respondent also noted the 2023 special elections were her first run for office. The Commission notes that this is Respondent's first complaint with the Commission and further acknowledges Respondent's transparency and efforts to ensure she provided accurate and detailed information during the investigation.

DISPOSITION

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of one count of Section 8-13-1302, two counts of Section 8-13-1312, four counts of Section 8-13-1308(B), one count of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1), and three counts of Section 8-13-1140 as described herein.
2. The Commission hereby adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Discussion, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

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[3] The Commission also charged Respondent with an additional three counts of Section 8-13-1308(B) and one additional count of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) for failing to file CDRs for Quarter 2, 2023, Quarter 1, 2024, and Quarter 2, 2024, and an August 15, 2023 Pre-Election CDR; however, upon further review, it was determined Respondent has already been assessed late-filing penalties for these CDRs through the Commission's standard non-compliance process. Accordingly, the Commission declines to proceed as to these counts. The Commission also found probable cause to charge Respondent with a second additional count of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) for failing to file a Pre-Election CDR prior to the October 17, 2023 special general election. However, the Commission declines to proceed on this count given that this CDR could have been combined with the Quarter 3, 2023 CDR pursuant to Section 8-13-1308(E).

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THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues this Public Reprimand to Respondent for violations of the Ethics Act;

AND orders Respondent to pay to the Commission, within one year of receipt of this Order, a reduced late-filing penalty of $800.00 ($100.00 per report) and an administrative fee of $400.00, for a total of $1,200.00. Given the mitigation listed herein, the Commission declines to assess any civil penalties for the violations of Section 8-13-1302 and Section 8-13-1312.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that she is not only admitting to violations of the Act but also confessing to a judgment of $17,400.00 ($10,600.00 in late-filing penalties, $2,000.00 per additional violation, and an increased administrative fee of $800.00) if she does not make payment as provided for in this Order, in which case the Commission shall file a judgment against Respondent with the Clerk of Court in Respondent's last known county of residence, who shall enter this Order in the amount of $17,400.00 (less any amount already paid to the Commission) in its judgment rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS ORDERED THIS 28th DAY OF October 2026.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

[redacted]

Sara Parrish

[redacted]

PERJETTA K. HIGHTOWER,
RESPONDENT